THE UNITED NATIONS SOCIAL AGENDA 7

UNITED NATIONS

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS—1993

8 March	International Women's Day
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
7 April	World Health Day
5 June	World Environment Day
26 June	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
11 July	World Population Day
8 September	International Literacy Day
1 October	International Day for the Elderly
4 October	World Habitat Day
13 October	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
16 October	World Food Day
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
24 October	United Nations Day
1 December	World AIDS Day
3 December	International Day of Disabled Persons
10 December	Human Rights Day

1993 CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

- Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
  18 January - 5 February, Vienna
- Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference on Human Rights
  18-22 January, San Jose
- Commission on Human Rights
  1 February - 12 March, Geneva
- Commission for Social Development
  8-17 February, Vienna
- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
  1-19 March, Geneva
  2-20 August, Geneva
- Commission on the Status of Women
  17-26 March, Vienna
- Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights
  22 March - 2 April, Geneva
- Human Rights Committee
  22 March - 8 April, New York
  12-30 July, Geneva
  18 October - 5 November, Geneva

- European Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population and Development
  23-26 March, Geneva
- United Nations Africa and Western Asia Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family
  29 March - 2 April, Tunis
- Commission on Narcotic Drugs
  29 March - 7 April, Vienna
- Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development
  April (dates to be determined), New York
- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
  13-23 April, Vienna

- Committee Against Torture
  19-30 April, Geneva
  8-19 November, Geneva
- United Nations Europe and North America Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family
  26-30 April, Valetta
- Commission on Human Settlements
  26 April - 5 May, Nairobi
- United Nations Asia and the Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family
  24-28 May, Beijing
- Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Population and Development
  May/June (dates to be determined - 1 week), Mexico City
- World Conference on Human Rights
  14-25 June, Vienna
- Economic and Social Council
  28 June - 30 July, Geneva

  Population Commission
  10-13 August, New York
- United Nations Latin America and the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family
  10-13 August, Cartagena
- Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development
  16-19 August, New York
- General Assembly special plenary meeting on international drug control (4 meetings)
  October or November (dates to be determined), New York
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
  22 November - 10 December, Geneva

MAJOR CONFERENCES

1993 World Conference on Human Rights
14-25 June, Vienna

1994 International Conference on Population and Development
5-13 September, Cairo

World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction
23-27 May, Yokohama

1995 World Summit for Social Development
(early 1995), Copenhagen

Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
(dates and location not yet established)

Fourth World Conference on Women
4-15 September, Beijing

1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)
3-14 June, Turkey

Years

1993 International Year of the World's Indigenous People
1994 International Year of the Family
1995 Tenth Anniversary of International Youth Year
1995 Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations
1995 United Nations Year for Tolerance
1999 International Year of Older Persons

Decades

1984-1993 Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
1988-1997 World Decade for Cultural Development
1990-1999 International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
1991-2000 United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse
1993-2002 Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons
1991-2000 Fourth United Nations Development Decade

1993: WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The United Nations World Conference on Human Rights, which will be held from 14 to 25 June in Vienna, Austria, aims to chart the course for the United Nations human rights programme into the next century.

After negotiations during 1991 and 1992, national delegations agreed to an agenda highlighting:

- a review of the progress made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in 1948 and ways to ensure further progress in the face of new challenges;
- the relationship between development, democracy and economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights as defined by various United Nations conventions;
- recommendations for strengthening international cooperation and enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations human rights activities.

The United Nations Centre for Human Rights in Geneva is the Secretariat for the Conference. Non-governmental organizations active in the field of human rights or development will be able to participate in the Conference. A fourth and last Preparatory Committee meeting in April will consider recommendations for the Plan of Action that the Conference expects to produce.

The last international conference on human rights was held in Teheran in 1968.

1993: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The 1993 International Year of the World's Indigenous People ("Indigenous people: a new partnership") has been established to encourage the development of new relationships with indigenous peoples on the part of States and the international community.

To mark the year, the United Nations family of organizations will evaluate and strengthen its programmes and activities concerning indigenous peoples. Efforts will be made to bolster international cooperation to address problems in areas such as human rights, environment, development, education and health. Rigoberta Menchu, the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner, has been appointed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to be Goodwill Ambassador for the International Year.

At the launching of the Year by the United Nations General Assembly on Human Rights Day, 10 December 1992, the Secretary-General said the crucial role of the United Nations is to promote and protect the rights of indigenous people, who often face economic and social disadvantages. Their situations vary widely. Some wish to maintain their culture, while others wish to integrate into the mainstream of society.

Human rights are universal, but the promotion and protection of those rights of indigenous people require a special sensitivity to particular situations, he stated.

Representatives of indigenous groups from around the world also spoke in the General Assembly during the opening ceremonies.

1994: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

The motto of the International Year of the Family is "Building the smallest democracy at the heart of society". Established by the General Assembly in 1989, the Year has as its main objectives to increase awareness of family issues among Governments and in the private sector and to stimulate positive action to improve the situation of families. Activities and observances at the national and local levels will be emphasized in 1994, with preparatory meetings to be held in Tunisia, Malta, China and Colombia in 1993.

1994: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

On 22 December 1992, the General Assembly endorsed the earlier decision of the Economic and Social Council to convene the ministerial-level International Conference at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994.

In a statement to the General Assembly's Second Committee, the Secretary-General of the Conference, Nafis Sadik, said the Cairo Conference would go further than the previous two population conferences "by examining the integral linkages between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development". It must address the "quality of life" as well as the "quantity of life," she added.

1995: WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

On 16 December 1992, the General Assembly agreed to hold a World Summit for Social Development at the level of heads of State or Government and accepted the offer of Denmark to host the conference at Copenhagen in early 1995.

The Summit's main goal will be to further the objectives of the United Nations Charter, as expressed in Article 55, to promote "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development" and "solutions of international economic, social, health and related problems". Putting the needs of people at the centre of development and of international cooperation is to be a major priority of the Summit.

The Assembly further decided that the core issues of the Summit would be the enhancement of social integration, particularly of disadvantaged groups, reduction of poverty and expansion of employment.

1995: WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

The fourth World Conference on Women, focusing on "Action for Equality, Development and Peace" will take place from 4 to 15 September in Beijing. Ms. Gertrude Mongella of Tanzania has been appointed Secretary-General of the Conference, and the secretariat will be based in New York, in the new Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

AGEING

On 15 and 16 October 1992, the United Nations General Assembly devoted four special meetings to the question of ageing, in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing. The Plan contains specific recommendations in areas such as health and nutrition, housing, social welfare, education, income security and employment.

Opening these meetings, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said population ageing was an unprecedented phenomenon with far-reaching ramifications for health services, work patterns, education and family policies. He stressed the need for a change in attitude to overcome the "cult of youth" and to develop a positive view of older people.

At the conclusion of its special meetings, the Assembly decided that 1999 would be the International Year of Older Persons. In a resolution approved on 16 December, the Assembly adopted global targets on ageing for the year 2001 as a practical strategy on ageing and urged the United Nations Development Programme and other development agencies to include components on ageing in their work programmes.

DISABLED PERSONS

On 14 October 1992, the General Assembly proclaimed 3 December as the International Day of Disabled Persons, concluding two days of special meetings held in observance of the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992). The Decade was launched by the General Assembly to increase international awareness of environmental and social barriers to the full integration of disabled persons into society.

During these special meetings, held on 12 and 13 October 1992, several representatives of non-governmental organizations told delegations that the 500 million disabled persons around the world are entitled to integration into society as a human right, not as charity or out of compassion.

In his message to the special meetings, the United Nations Secretary-General said the Decade had been a period of philosophical evolution. Now was the time for action, and he called on Governments to make the question of disabled persons one of their priorities.

CRIME PREVENTION

In April 1992, the new Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice met for the first time in Vienna. Superseding the Committee for Crime Prevention and Control, the Commission is composed of 40 Government representatives who will meet every year to monitor and review United Nations activities in this area and provide policy guidance.

At its 1992 session, the Economic and Social Council decided that the following topics could be included in the agenda for the 1995 Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders:

- International cooperation and practical technical assistance for strengthening the rule of law;
- Action against national and transnational economic, organized and environmental crime;
- Management and improvement of police, prosecution, courts and corrections;
- Crime prevention strategies, in particular concerning urban areas, juvenile and violent criminality and crime victims.

DRUG CONTROL

In a resolution adopted on 16 December, the General Assembly decided to hold four special plenary meetings at its 1993 session to "examine urgently" the status of international cooperation against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. During those meetings the Assembly hopes to review progress made in implementing the Global Programme of Action and to suggest effective approaches to combat drug abuse and trafficking through legal and legislative action, trade liberalization, crop substitution, rural development and law enforcement.

The United Nations Social Agenda provides NGOs and interested individuals with briefs on social issues being dealt with by the United Nations system. More information on all of these subjects is available from:

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FAMILY, AGEING, CRIME, WOMEN

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